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WEDNESDAY
JULY 22, 1953

Mr. Von Kessel came to see me this morning. He has just returned from Washington and will shortly be going back to take up his post at the German Embassy as Minister. We talked frankly about the dispatch by the Chancellor of Blankenhorn at the time of the Foreign Ministers' conference. Although it turned out to be useful since it provided the Chancellor with a channel of consultation which otherwise was apparently lacking, Von Kessel and I are in accord that if this special method of dealing with the American authorities is to be used in the future the prior agreement of the American Government should be sought. Actually, the three Foreign Ministers refused to see Blankenhorn and therefore he had to conduct his transaction at lower levels.

We lunched with Odile de Guiche in her charming little house on Avenue Victor Hugo. The Klotzes were there.

Jim Conant called me on the phone this afternoon to say the Germans were extremely anxious to have the conference at Baden Baden on August 7 deal with substantative matters and not result simply in a decision by the Foreign Ministers that they would meet again later on in the year. I had previously discussed this question with Paul Reynaud and others, and Monnet is going to get busy on it this evening.

I had a long talk with Bill Tyler, who I think understands the political and general situation here better than anyone in the Embassy.

Monsieur Antoine, of the book firm of Chaix, came in with John Brown to talk to me about publishing the English text of my essays on the Presidents. It will be a costly affair as I shall have to pay the initial expenses, but with any luck I will get them back with a profit.

E. and I went to see the Gruenthers at their house at Marne la Coquette this evening. Al says he had a rough time before the Committees

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in Washington, who are almost unanimously convinced that the French are unreliable partners and furthermore intend to obstruct in every way possible a military contribution by Germany. He talked [redacted] interestingly [redacted] about the various proposed alternatives to a forward strategy (which of course is dependent upon a German contribution). All of them [redacted] are unsatisfactory. We discussed different ways in which the French could be brought to adopt a realistic view of what is necessary in the common interest. He is a remarkable man and Grace is [redacted] affectionate and agreeable. We always love to see them. He had brought back some toys from the United States for the children, one of which, a plastic machine gun which spits fire, is going to drive little David crazy with pleasure.

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